



Around the Archipelago

The official newspaper of
Apostle Islands National Lakeshore



The Greatest Show on the Big Lake!

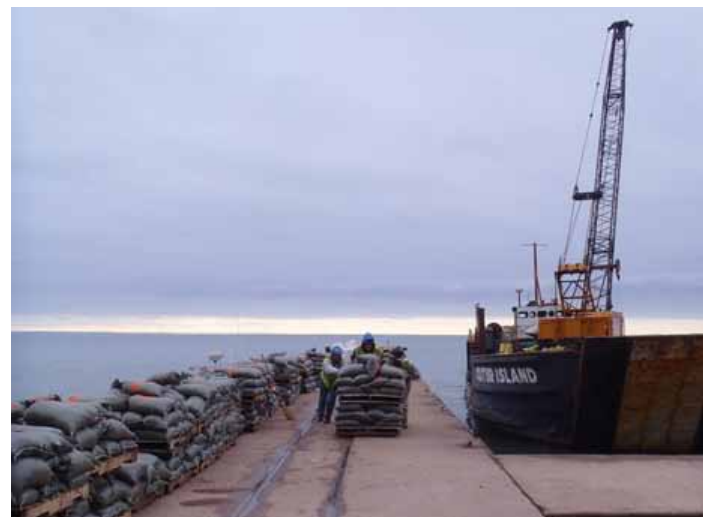
YOU'D HAVE TO GO BACK TO 1929 TO SEE ANYTHING LIKE the 2013 Apostle Islands light station preservation project. Big happenings at Michigan Island Light: workmen, barges, scaffolding, painters, roofers, sawyers, carpenters, glaziers, and masons, all just busy as beavers. And not just Michigan, but Devils, La Pointe, Outer, and Sand lights too. This is the biggest historic preservation project that Apostle Islands National Lakeshore has ever undertaken, and the biggest re-investment in these historic lights ever made by the federal government. There may NEVER have been a summer this busy at the Apostle Islands' lighthouses.

Local folks and park visitors have heard rumblings about this for several years as the planning, design, and contract preparation work progressed. The lights will be seeing some old friends, and making some new ones. C3, LLC, a major national construction firm, is the general contractor, supervising an array of subcontractors including KBK Services of Ashland, Wisconsin. KBK has conducted a number of historic preservation projects in the national lakeshore, including the rehabilitation of Raspberry lighthouse. The vessel *Outer Island*, a veteran of both World War II and over 60 years of local marine construction, will be doing much of the heavy transport. Last October, without too much fanfare, the *Outer Island* arrived at Michigan Island light to start dropping off materials and get things staged for 2013.

Let's grab a hard hat, take a look at those construction drawings, and see what's in store. The really big effort is on Michigan Island. Sawyers will clear four acres of encroaching trees to partially restore the original light station grounds and viewshed. The old light, keeper's quarters, power house, and assistant keeper's quarters will be re-roofed. The interior of the old light will be rehabilitated for public access including refinished floors, doors, trim, and plaster, with planning under way for new exhibits in 2014. The old light tower will also be repaired and repainted. The new (1929) tower base will have repairs to its windows, plaster, and iron columns. The keeper's quarters will have repairs to its brick and porches, and the assistant keeper's quarters will have window repairs and repainting. Access to the grounds and old light will be improved, as will ventilation in all the major structures. Hazardous materials will be removed, the old tramway will be restored with new ballast and ties, and badly needed repairs will be made to the dock.

Outer Island light will see reroofing, repointing and repainting of its masonry tower; repainting and repair of the lantern; repair to windows, interiors, and repainting of exterior trim on the lighthouse; removal of hazardous materials, and improvements to ventilation. The fog signal building will receive needed foundation and roof repairs and removal of hazardous materials.

Devils Island light tower will undergo major repair to its concrete footings, while the keeper's and assistant keeper's quarters will see repair to windows, porches, interiors, and repointing the brick, while also improving ventilation. The fog signal building will receive repairs to its exterior and foundation, as well as repainting. Park



Top: The old light on Michigan Island will be renovated inside and out in 2013. Bottom: The *Outer Island* unloads building materials at Michigan Island dock in October 2012.

sawyers are clearing encroaching trees and brush from three acres of grounds (see article on page 7).

At Long Island, the La Pointe light tower will also undergo major repairs to its concrete footings and minor repairs to the metal structure. The keeper's quarters is also seeing efforts to combat moisture and mold, and improve ventilation. Thinning of trees on the grounds and around structures is also taking place.

Sand Island light is receiving an urgently needed new metal roof and gutter repairs. Plans to repair and refinish floors, repair plaster and repaint the interior, improve ventilation, and partially restore the original station grounds are awaiting future funds.

It sounds like a lot to accomplish in one season, and it is. If weather doesn't cooperate, the work may have to push into 2014. The goal, however, is to finish it all in one year, both to save money and to minimize visitor inconvenience. But preservation efforts won't stop here. The planning team has identified much more work needed at all the lights, probably two to three times more than the funding for this project could cover. While much remains to be done, the work accomplished in 2014 will go a long way towards preserving the "Lights of the Apostles" for years to come.

Pardon the Mess... Closed For Renovation

We know how disappointing a "Closed for Renovation" sign can be. We hope that the inconvenience of not climbing the light towers this summer will be rewarded by great visitor experiences in the future.

While the National Park Service will work to minimize public impacts during the light station repair work, some closures will be necessary for public safety and to allow workers access to the light stations. Buildings will be closed to visitation while work is in progress, as will the adjacent grounds. The normal volunteer "keepers" will not be in residence during construction. In some cases lighthouse dock closures may also be required for visitor safety and to guarantee dock space for the work crews and materials. Michigan Island Light will be the most impacted by closures as dock space is limited, and work at the station will be extensive.

Raspberry Island Light will be open as usual in 2013, but if you plan on visiting any of the park's other light stations, you should check in advance to learn of any closures that might be in place. We apologize in advance for any inconveniences. Call 715-779-3397 or check the park website at www.nps.gov/apis for the latest information. Watch for updates and "behind the scenes" construction photos on our Facebook page!

Here are the anticipated dates for construction, which will result in partial or full closures to the light stations and in some cases the adjacent docks. These dates are subject to change.

Michigan Light (dock closed as required):
May 2 through September 1, 2013

Devils Light (east and west landings may be closed as required): May 10 through September 25, 2013

Outer Island Light (dock may be closed as required): May 20 through August 1, 2013

La Pointe (Long Island) Light (dock may be closed as required): August 1 through October 8, 2013

Sand Light (landing may be closed as required): August 1 through August 31, 2013

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

Wisconsin's northernmost landscape juts into Lake Superior as the scenic archipelago of 22 Apostle Islands. The area's scenic, historical, biological, and recreational values were recognized in 1970 when Congress named 20 of the islands and 2,500 acres of the peninsula as a national lakeshore. In 1986, Long Island was also included. The Gaylord Nelson Wilderness, including 33,500 acres of the lakeshore, was established in 2004.

This fascinating unit of the National Park System features a combination of spectacular natural beauty and rich cultural history. The wooded islands are trimmed with sea caves, sandstone cliffs, and miles of pristine sand beaches. Native Americans, voyageurs, loggers, stone cutters, farmers, and commercial fishermen all left their marks on the islands. Six light stations were built in the Apostles to aid Great Lakes navigation.

Mailing Address

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(800) 877-8339 TTY (Calls are relayed using specially trained Communications Assistants.)

Facebook

http://www.facebook.com/
apostleislandsnationalakeshore



Apostle Islands National Lakeshore has a Fan Page on Facebook. Here, you will be able to share your experiences at the national lakeshore. Occasionally, we'll ask a thought provoking question, tell you "what is happening now," engage in conversations, and bring clarity to any rumors floating around out there.

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Apostle Islands and the Sequester

By Bob Krumenaker
Park Superintendent

It's popular to talk about "the government" and blame it for a host of frustrations, inefficiencies, and evils in American society. But we don't have "a" government, we have many governments: local, tribal, state, and federal. It's easy to forget that government - as Lincoln eloquently reminded us at Gettysburg, "of the people, by the people, [and] for the people" - provides the roads, the disaster relief, the schools, and the parks that people need and appreciate. Who does this? Civil servants that work for many agencies to fulfill mandates established by elected legislatures at every level.

Providing these and other government services requires expertise and labor and supplies and materials, all of which cost money. We've been through tough economic times in recent years, and the country is deeply divided on fiscal issues. Inability to reach consensus in Washington has resulted in the "sequester." Good public policy or bad, citizens have a right to understand how the sequester will affect the services provided by each federal government agency. The rest of this article describes how the sequester is affecting the National Park Service (NPS), and the Apostle Islands in particular - your federal government in northern Wisconsin.

As an agency, NPS has few options on how to take the automatic, across-the-board, 5.3% cut. By law, every park and program is being cut the same percent of its annual budget - and has only seven months of the fiscal year to absorb the loss. This is a real cut, not a reduction of an increase, as some have suggested. We have little flexibility about what to cut, as the vast majority of our budget pays for our employees who take care of parks and the people who visit them - 283 million last year.

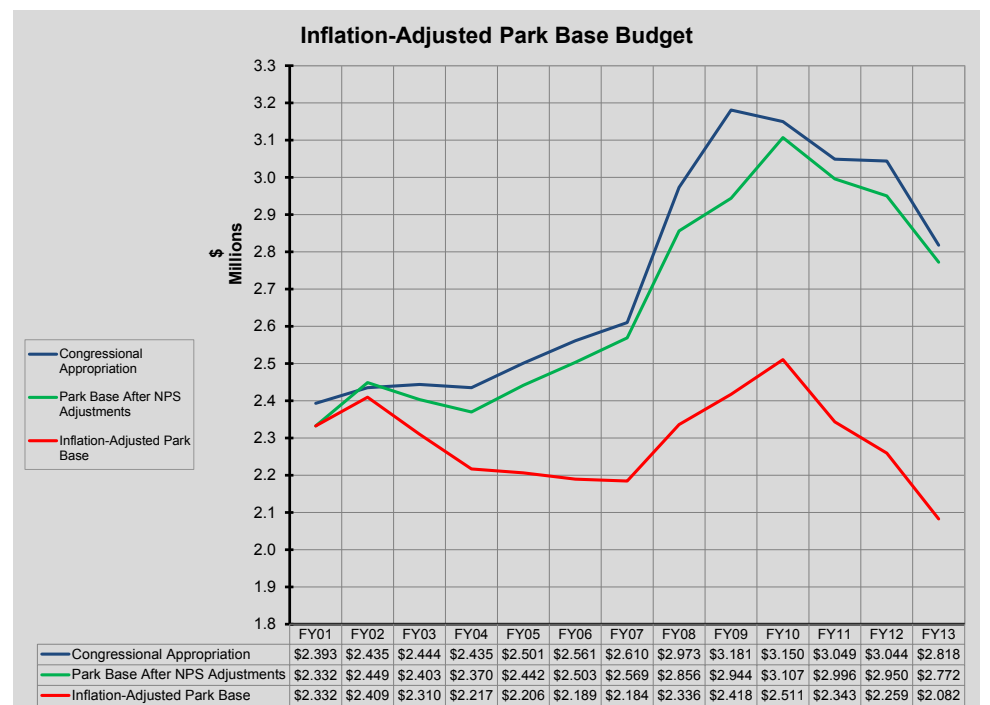
The Director of the NPS instructed that sequestration cuts are to be taken in the following order:

1. Don't fill vacant jobs
2. Stop all non-essential spending (supplies, travel, training)
3. Reduce/eliminate seasonal hires
4. Furlough permanent, full-time staff

When national parks submitted their plans for review, they were able to absorb the cuts with the first three, sparing the year-round staff from mandatory furloughs.

Ironically, the light station preservation project, which was funded in previous fiscal years, is exempt from the sequestration cuts.

Visitors will see and feel the effects of sequestration. The cut came in the spring, just as parks were poised to hire 10,000 seasonal employees that are critical to our ability to welcome visitors and operate during the peak visitation season. Since 2010, NPS spending on seasonal employees has decreased by 8%. There will be fewer rangers and other NPS staff to operate visitor centers, clean toilets, mow lawns, or inspire kids at evening campfire programs. Our seasonal workforce is the "bench" we turn to when fires break out, search and rescue operations are underway, and every other collateral duty needs doing. At Apostle Islands, many of these folks return year after year; they are the repositories of



Apostle Islands National Lakeshore budget trends since 2001.

amazing institutional knowledge for the park...and our visitors.

Previous budget reductions have already stripped park budgets to the bone. At Apostle Islands, our 2013 budget is 12% less than it was in 2010. The park's operating budget will be the lowest since 2007, and adjusted for inflation, the lowest since before 2001. (See chart)

The reductions to park budgets will have a big impact on the American economy, especially in the gateway communities that support, and depend upon, park visitors. A dollar invested in the NPS returns \$10 to the national economy and supports 252,000 jobs nationwide. Direct annual spending is about \$3 million per year here, paying salaries, buying local goods and services, and hiring local contractors. Indirectly, spending by the NPS and lakeshore visitors contributes more than \$20.9 million to the local economy and supports about 364 jobs.

Those numbers will likely decrease this year as the NPS has less money to reinvest in the local economy. Since the park was created in 1970, job and income growth in the counties surrounding the park have been much higher than in the state as a whole. Sequestration, particularly if it is extended (and current law would ratchet the decrease 5% more each year) could well have a major impact here, not just in the park itself.

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore's staff trimmed operations in every program, doing it surgically rather than uniformly across-the-board, to make sure the impacts were strategic rather than blunt. Nonetheless, the cuts are significant. In a normal year, approximately 87% of the park's operating budget would be in fixed costs, so the sequestration cuts have to come in the remaining 13% that is truly discretionary. That discretionary funding pays for all of the seasonal rangers and other staff that are highly visible to the public during the summer, plus supplies, materials, equipment repairs, routine maintenance of trails and campsites and docks, custodial services, lawn mowing, etc.

We'll go from 14 to 7 (50% reduction) seasonal rangers and other staff funded from our base budget. No vacant permanent positions will be filled, including two vital positions: the skilled mechanic that maintains water and electrical systems on islands; and our wildlife biologist position.

The cuts will impact visitor safety. Fewer staff and fewer hours mean slower response time when there's an emergency. Fewer rangers and shorter hours at Meyers Beach, the park's most dangerous kayak launch site, will likely result in a one-third reduction in visitor safety contacts. Eliminating all non-emergency overtime means we would be very limited in our ability to do bear deterrence when there's a bear conflict in a campground. If there are a lot of bear issues this summer, we may have to close areas of the park to protect visitors.

The cuts will also impact visitor services. Hours at the Bayfield Visitor Center, which have already been decreased due to prior budget cutbacks, would decrease by an additional 3.5 hours per week. Fewer staff and shorter hours will mean longer waits for permits and return calls. We're reducing the ranger presence on the concession cruise boats by 85%, and will give about 7% fewer tours at Raspberry Island Lighthouse.

Apostle Islands is a boating park, yet we need to reduce the funding for boat fuel for NPS vessels by about 16% (which probably means an even larger reduction in the number of gallons we buy if fuel costs rise). Fortunately, we've made our fleet much more efficient in recent years, but even so, we will have to reduce the hours of use for the boats this year. If we have a lot of activity or emergencies early in the summer, we may be down to a minimum presence in the islands by late summer.

We've also had to cut funding in half for the contracted landing craft we hire to transport the truck that pumps our island-based vault toilets. If this is a busy year, some toilets could fill before we can pump them and we'd have to close them for safety and aesthetic reasons. If there are no alternative toilets nearby, we may have to close some campsites as well.

Your federal government in northern Wisconsin is made up of real people who care deeply about the mission of the National Park Service. I am very proud of the staff of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and we will do the very best we can to provide you with the quality park experience you deserve, despite the budget cuts. Please look for opportunities to say thanks to a park ranger or other government worker when you see good work. They will appreciate it in these tough times.

Planning a Visit

Information/Orientation



Headquarters Visitor Center

Open Mon-Fri 8 am to 4:30 pm, May 1-May 24
Open Daily 8 am to 4:30 pm, May 25-Sept. 29
Open M-F 8 am to 4:30 pm, Sept. 30-May, 2014
(closed on Federal holidays October - April)

Little Sand Bay Visitor Center

Open Daily 9 am to 5 pm, June 15-Sept. 2
(as staff is available)

Camping



Camping is available on 19 of the lakeshore's 21 islands and at one campsite on the mainland. Permits are required for all camping in the national lakeshore and can be obtained in person or by calling 715-779-3397. Individual campsites (for one to seven campers) can be reserved beginning one month before the start of a trip. Group campsites (for eight to 21 campers) can be reserved beginning the second week in January. Camping zones have also been established on 15 islands in the national lakeshore for visitors seeking a remote backcountry experience. A nightly fee is charged for camping (see chart on this page). Pictures and descriptions of Apostle Islands campsites are available on-line at www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/camping.htm

Sailing and Boating



The Apostle Islands offer outstanding boating opportunities. Public docks are found on 13 of the islands in the national lakeshore. Space is reserved at some docks for National Park Service (NPS) vessels and excursion boats. The remaining space is available to the public on a first come, first served basis. A fee is charged for docking any time from 6 pm to 6 am. The fee is \$10 for vessels up to 40 feet long or \$20 for vessels over 40 feet long. Public boat launches (non-NPS) are located in Ashland, Bayfield, Cornucopia, Little Sand Bay, Red Cliff, and Washburn. The cost is \$5/launch in Bayfield, \$6/launch at Little Sand Bay. All watercraft must be decontaminated before launching in the lake. Marinas are in Ashland, Bayfield, Cornucopia, LaPointe, Pike's Bay, Port Superior, Red Cliff, Roys Point, Schooner Bay, and Washburn.

Personal Watercraft (Jet skis)

The use of personal watercraft is not allowed within the national lakeshore's boundaries.

Paddling



Sea kayaks are very popular for travel among the Apostle Islands. To prevent the spread of the deadly VHS virus, all watercraft must be decontaminated before launching in the lake. Two kayak launch points are located within the national lakeshore's mainland unit. Meyers Beach is a popular spot to begin a tour to the mainland sea caves. There is a day use parking fee at Meyers Beach. A kayak launch is located west of the NPS dock at Little Sand Bay. Temporary parking for loading/unloading equipment is located to the west of the NPS visitor center. For more information go to www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/kayaking.htm

Fishing and Hunting

A Wisconsin fishing license with a Great Lakes trout and salmon stamp is required for fishermen 16 or older. Sport fishermen are drawn to the Apostle Islands region by the opportunities to catch lake trout, rainbow trout, brown trout, and coho salmon. Emergency restrictions were implemented in 2008 to prevent the spread of the deadly VHS virus. More information is available on our website at www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/fishing.htm

Hunting activity may occur in the national lakeshore from September (after Labor Day) through May 15. Archery hunts for island deer run from mid-September to the end of September and from the beginning of November through December. There is a muzzle loader season during the month of October on all islands except Long. A free access permit is required for most hunting on the islands. For detailed information go to <http://www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/hunting.htm>. All hunting is in compliance with federal and state law.

Firearms

As of February 22, 2010, a federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under federal, Wisconsin, and local laws to possess firearms in Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. It is the visitor's responsibility to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws. Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those places are posted with signs at public entrances.

Accessibility

- The Headquarters visitor center in Bayfield offers accessible parking, a ramped entry on the west side of the building, power operated door openers, accessible restrooms, an auditorium with a hearing assistance system, and an accessible exhibit area.
- The Little Sand Bay visitor center has accessible parking, a ramped entry to the visitor center, an accessible exhibit area and accessible restrooms.
- Campsite #1 at Stockton Island's Presque Isle campground features a ramped boardwalk from the west dock to the campsite and an accessible route to the vault toilets. Campers with mobility impairments should specifically request this site when obtaining a permit.
- Apostle Islands Cruises can accommodate visitors with mobility impairments. Deckhands will assist visitors onto the main deck of the boat. The "Island Princess" includes an accessible toilet room and accessible seating spaces.

Collecting

Native fruits (except apples), nuts, and berries not from plants listed as threatened or endangered species may be collected in quantities up to one gallon per person per week. Up to five gallons of apples per person per week may be harvested in the park. All edible mushrooms not listed as threatened or endangered species may be collected in quantities up to one gallon per person per week. The gathering of fruits, nuts, berries, apples and mushrooms by hand in the quantities identified will not have an adverse affect on the various plant species. Wildflowers may NOT be collected in the park.

Island Tours/Shuttles



Apostle Islands Cruises (an authorized National Park Service concessioner) offers a variety of nonstop sightseeing excursions and island shuttles (see schedule). Their office is located in the Bayfield Pavilion near the city dock in Bayfield, WI. All cruises depart from Bayfield. Reservations are recommended. For more information call 800-323-7619 or visit on-line at www.apostleisland.com

Park Fees

Camping (per site per night)

Individual site or camping zone: \$10
Group site: \$20

Docking (between 6 pm and 6 am)

Boats less than 40 feet: \$10
Six-night docking ticket book: \$50
Boats 40 feet or more: \$20
Six-night docking ticket book: \$100

Parking

Meyers Beach day use, vehicle less than 20' (including trailer): \$3
Meyers Beach day use, vehicle 20' or more: \$5
Meyers Beach annual parking pass (cost based on vehicle length): \$15-25
Bayfield Headquarters overnight (cost based on vehicle length): \$5-8

Guided tours/interpretive programs

Per person: \$3
Per immediate family: \$8

Most of the fee revenue collected at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore stays in the park and is used for critical and highly visible projects to benefit the public.

The Golden Age Passport or Interagency Senior Pass (for U.S. citizens 62 or older) and Golden Access Passport or Interagency Access Pass (for permanently disabled U.S. citizens) provide a 50% discount on camping, docking, parking and guided tours at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

Guided Activities

Park staff offer a variety of guided activities from June to September. Check at park visitor centers or bulletin boards for specific times, topics, and locations.



Guided Lighthouse Tours

Guided tours of the restored Raspberry Island lighthouse will be offered daily between 9 am and 4:30 pm from June 15 through mid-September. Tours include access to the lighthouse tower and the refurbished head lighthouse keeper's quarters. Guided tours at Raspberry Island cost \$3/person or \$8/immediate family.

Park staff may be available to conduct free guided tours of the lighthouse at Sand island from late June to September (except when closed for construction). Tours will generally be available daily on request from about 9 am to 4:30 pm. Guided tours will NOT be available before 9 am or after 4:30 pm without prior arrangements.

Campfire Programs

Join park staff at the Presque Isle campfire circle on Stockton Island nightly from late June through Labor Day. The free talks last about 45 minutes and cover such topics as bears, Native American culture, wilderness, and shipwrecks. Programs start at twilight.

Visit an Island with Apostle Islands Cruises - 2013

Cruise Name	Description	Dates/Times
Raspberry Island Lighthouse Shuttle \$41.95/adult, \$24.95/child	4 hour shuttle to Raspberry Island (additional fee for lighthouse tour)	1:30 pm, Tue-Fri-Sat-Sun June 28-Sept. 1
Oak Island Camper Shuttle \$54.95/adult, \$32.95/child	Drop-off/ pick-up campers at Oak Island	1:30 pm, Tue-Fri-Sat-Sun June 28-Sept. 1
Stockton Island Dayhiker: \$41.95/adult, \$24.95/child	4.5 hour shuttle to Stockton Island (2 hours on island)	8:30 am, Tue-Fri-Sat-Sun June 28-Sept. 1
Stockton Island Camper Shuttle \$54.95/adult, \$32.95/child	Drop-off/ pick-up campers at Stockton Island	8:30 am, Tue-Fri-Sat-Sun June 28-Sept. 1

Complete Cruise schedule at www.apostleisland.com

Not Just Another “Lake Up North”... Sea Kayaking on Lake Superior

As the world’s largest fresh water lake, Superior is in a class of its own. It’s a national treasure. It feels and looks like an ocean with seemingly endless boundaries and possibilities. A day on Lake Superior leaves you exhilarated, connected, restored. The Lake’s energy courses through your bones right to your soul. What a gift.

Many smaller bodies of water offer these gifts as well. But there comes a point where comparing Lake Superior to other inland lakes takes a dramatic shift and those wishing to engage with the Lake must transform their approach to that of the ocean going mariner.

Because Lake Superior is an inland sea, a bona fide sea kayak...is the appropriate vessel for Apostle Islands paddlers.

How do we do that? Often times in nature, the antidote is found in close proximity to the problem. A positive relationship with the Lake is not entirely unconditional; the Lake asks a few things in return for its transformative gifts and in the process of repayment we move closer to safe passage.

Respecting the power of the Lake is a good first step for kayakers in building an ongoing relationship; once here, you’ll want to

come back. Lake Superior is truly an inland sea. Weather, navigation and buoyage are taken seriously and monitored by federal maritime agencies. There is a bottom line of knowledge you must have to initiate your relationship with the Lake and it includes paying attention to equipment, your level of training, the surrounding environment.

When it comes to making recommendations about paddling the Apostle Islands, local outfitters and agencies are in a bit of a dilemma as they walk a line between cautious warning and wholehearted encouragement. They’ve seen clear weather transition in a heartbeat to a thundering line of squalls, water temperatures plummet from 70 to 50 degrees with a change in wind direction, down drafting gusts scatter kayakers like leaves across open channels. They’ve also seen the joy and smiles on people’s faces as they walk away from a great day on Lake Superior.

There is much discussion within the bureaucratic and public communities of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore on the amorphous subject of what exactly is appropriate equipment and experience for these waters. The Park Service and US Coast Guard mandate and enforce certain rules and regulations. The rest of the protocols are dictated by the Lake and the paddler’s judgment.

Because Lake Superior is an inland *sea*, a bona fide sea kayak, accompanied with commensurate skills and safety knowledge



Paddlers should obtain the proper equipment, weather information, and instruction before venturing out on the lake.

to use it, is the appropriate vessel for Apostle Islands paddlers. Sure, there are places and days where recreational kayaks, sit-on-top or peddle-style kayaks and stand up paddle boards provide a terrific experience on the lake. And certainly there are individuals who have the expertise to bend the rules and push the edges. But are you ready to make these differentiations and decisions for yourself, friends and family?

It is an earned privilege to safely paddle Lake Superior. Reframing your expectation about this Lake should be at the top of your

trip planning to-do list and don’t leave home without it. Think about going with an outfitter your first time on the big Lake, you’ll learn a lot. Take a rescue class on your favorite inland lake. Read some books, watch some videos.

Not only is the time and effort you put into preparation fun and informative; you’re paying forward your commitment to the Lake and laying the foundation for a healthy and vibrant long term relationship. What a gift.

National Park Foundation Grants Create “Next Generation Stewards”

As the National Park Service prepares to enter its second century of existence, it is working to develop and nurture life-long connections between the public and parks – especially for young people – through a continuum of engaging recreational, educational, volunteer, and work experiences. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is developing these “next generation stewards” with the help of two grants from the National Park Foundation.

The Parks Climate Challenge program uses national parks as classrooms to educate students about climate change. A Parks Climate Challenge grant will fund the second annual “Changing Climate...Changing Cultures” teacher workshop at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center July 15-18, 2013. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore worked with the University of Wisconsin – Extension, the Friends of the Center Alliance, Ltd., and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, to develop a curriculum and teacher training that highlights the effects of climate change on Great Lakes’ natural and cultural resources through exploring the inter-relationship between the Ojibwe culture and the Lake Superior environment. Twenty-five teachers participated in last summer’s inaugural workshop that included trips to the Kakagon Slough on the Bad River Reservation and Stockton Island in the national lakeshore. By providing teachers the platform, information and tools to develop hands-on service projects, they in turn create dynamic lessons for their students incorporating national park experiences both within and outside the boundaries of the national lakeshore.

A Park Stewards grant from the National Park Foundation in 2011 led to establishment of the Apostle Islands Experiential Learning Partnership (APISELP) between Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and the Bayfield (Wisconsin) Public School. The grant was renewed to fund the third year of the APISELP in 2013. During the first two years of the APISELP, students of Bayfield High School completed three successful independent research projects, developed a science demonstration program which teaches about the physics of lighthouses, and initiated a project in which students learn about and participate in trail development and maintenance in the park



Parks Climate Challenge and Park Stewards grants from the National Park Foundation help students connect to Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. “Park Stewards” from Bayfield High School build boardwalk on the park’s Lakeshore Trail (top) and explain to elementary school students how lighthouse lenses work (bottom).

In the research component of APISELP, three Bayfield High School students conducted independent research projects within the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. The students wrote research papers, prepared presentations, and participated in regional and national science competitions. The research projects included a study of organic and inorganic contaminants found in eagle blood, a measurement of the geophysical behavior of Lake Superior waters within the Apostle Islands, and an analysis of stable isotopes in fish within the waters of the Apostle Islands.

Bayfield teacher Rick Erickson and his physics students developed a successful cross-age mentoring program to teach about the physics of lighthouses. The students developed a traveling trunk with the equipment necessary to present the program to more than 250 elementary students in February 2012. In April 2013, Mr. Erickson conducted a teacher workshop to show other teachers how to use the hands-on activities in the kit to teach students about the physics of lighthouse lenses. The workshop also trained teachers in the use of Lake Superior place-based lessons designed through student research.

In May 2012 and 2013, Mr. Erickson coordinated a variety of service learning projects in the park. Funds from the National Park Foundation grant were used to purchase materials, and more than 40 students built boardwalk on the park’s Lakeshore Trail, cleared debris from other trails in the park, and built a shelter for the fee station at Meyers Beach. In September 2011 and 2012, Mr. Erickson brought a total of more than 60 students and teachers to the Raspberry Island lighthouse to tour the light, clean out the vegetable garden, and install storm windows on the lighthouse keepers’ quarters.

“We are excited about these programs because they allow us to enhance our partnership with the Bayfield School as well as other schools across the state,” said Superintendent Bob Krumenaker. “As a result of the personal engagement and service learning projects

facilitated by these National Park Foundation grants, students are developing a deeper connection and sense of stewardship for the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.”

Have Fun...Be Safe...

Tips to help preserve the park, respect other visitors, and protect yourself.

...On the Water



To avoid dangerous mishaps, paddlers should monitor weather forecasts and conditions, stay close together with their group, and know their limits.

Paddling

Canoes should not be used for travel between the islands. Calm days may make canoe use possible along the mainland or island shorelines, but weather conditions can change rapidly. Sea kayaks have become very popular for travel among the islands, but may be difficult for other boaters to see. Brightly colored kayaks clustered in a group offer greater visibility. Allow plenty of time to accomplish your intended route. Beginners should not try to cover more than ten miles in a day. Inform a friend or relative of your travel plans. Kayakers should wear a PFD and use wet suits or dry suits when paddling in the Apostles. Paddlers should also pack such items as: a marine radio or cell phone, a first aid kit, extra paddle, sunscreen, insect repellent, compass, nautical charts, 50 feet of line, waterproof matches, a headlamp, dry storage containers, and provisions for at least one extra day.



Severe weather can occur with little or no warning. NPS and Coast Guard vessels provide towing only in emergency situations.

Boating

The following precautions and regulations will help make a safe trip:

- Do not overload your boat.
- Use personal flotation devices (PFDs). Each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved type I, II, or III PFD for each person on board and one throwable type IV PFD.
- All children under age 13 must wear PFDs while aboard recreational vessels underway except when in an enclosed cabin or below deck.
- Boat sober.
- Exhibit anchor lights from sunset to sunrise.
- Stay at least 100 feet from commercial fishing nets.
- Be wary of shoal areas and when beaching a boat. NPS and U.S. Coast Guard vessels provide towing only in emergency situations.
- Make sure your boat is equipped with: paddles or oars, fire extinguisher, spare propeller and shear pin, compass and nautical charts, running lights, flashlight, whistle or horn, first-aid kit, radio, an anchor with sufficient line, and a manual bailing device.

Swimming

The average annual water temperature of Lake Superior is about 40 degrees Fahrenheit, but on calm sunny summer days, surface water temperatures in the Apostle Islands' protected shallow bays can climb into the 70s. There are no lifeguards in the national lakeshore. Swimming is done at your own risk. Swimming is not allowed within 100 feet of all harbors, public docks, and vessels secured to docks. Diving or jumping into the lake from the cliffs at Devils Island, Sand Island, or the mainland sea caves is not permitted.

Drinking Water

Well water is only available at Little Sand Bay, on Sand Island, and at Presque Isle on Stockton Island. Water from the lake should be boiled for two minutes or filtered through an adequate filter (0.4 microns pore size) before use. This precaution eliminates many organisms including Giardia, a microorganism which causes an intestinal disorder.

...On the Land

Black Bears

Stockton, Oak, and Sand islands host resident bears, but bears can swim to any of the Apostle Islands. Never approach a bear, even to take pictures. Keep at least 50 yards away. Never feed a bear. There are several ways to avoid a close encounter with a bear where you camp or picnic. Reduce food odors by washing dishes and cleaning the kitchen site after cooking. Use minimal amounts of water to clean dishes and broadcast that wastewater on the ground at least 50 yards from camp. All food, beverage containers, garbage, cooking materials, condiments, utensils, and toiletries (such as toothpaste or soap) must be secured from wildlife contact. Bear-proof lockers are provided at all designated campsites in the park. Where food lockers or closed vessels are not available, hang all food and related items in a tree away from the tent and at least 12 feet from the ground and five feet from the trunk. Do not bury, scatter or try to burn food scraps. Bag garbage and pack it out. If you encounter a bear near a dock, campsite, or picnic area, use tone of voice and body posture to show you are in charge, yell and make noise until the bear leaves the area, then report the encounter to park staff.



All food, beverage containers, cooking materials, garbage, etc. must be locked up INSIDE bear-proof food lockers except during meals. Violations are subject to fines.

Fires

Campfires must be built within fire receptacles where provided or on the sand beach near the water's edge, below the vegetation line. Fires are not allowed on beaches at Raspberry Island, at Julian Bay and Presque Isle Bay on Stockton Island, on beaches within 150 feet of campsites where fire receptacles are provided, or in Outer Island camping zone #3 (NW quarter of the island). Beach and camp fires may not be larger than 3 feet in height or diameter. Dead wood on the ground in forested areas or unvegetated beach areas may be collected for firewood. Firewood cannot be carried into, or between islands in, the national lakeshore. Chain saws cannot be operated in the national lakeshore. Before leaving a campfire, the fire must be extinguished and free of litter with no evidence of food remains that could attract wildlife. Fires are not permitted in portable grills or stoves on docks or topside areas of boats tied to public docks. Open fires will be prohibited when fire danger is high.

Pets

Pets must be kept on a leash that is six feet or shorter, and never left unattended. Pet excrement must be immediately collected and disposed of in the nearest trash receptacle or buried in a forested area using a small hole dug in soil at least six inches deep at least 200 feet from any trail, campsite, beach, dock or water source. Pets are not allowed in public buildings or on scheduled Apostle Islands Cruises trips (except assistance dogs accompanying visually or hearing impaired people.)

Insects and Ticks

Biting insects can be prevalent on the islands from June to September. Wearing long pants and long sleeved shirts will provide some protection from mosquitoes, biting flies, and ticks. Insect repellents are helpful. The ticks that transmit Lyme Disease and Ehrlichiosis are found in the park. If you notice a rash, flu-like symptoms, or pain in the joints following a tick bite, call your physician.

Hazard Trees

High winds can cause even healthy trees to fall down. Beware of trees with recognizable flaws (leaning or partly uprooted, dead areas, hanging branches) near campsites, docks, outhouses, and picnic areas. Do not linger in areas adjacent to hazard trees, especially during high winds. Report any such trees near visitor use areas to park staff as soon as possible.

Emergency Contacts

Call 715-779-3397 (day, NPS), or 219-395-1008 (NPS 24-hour dispatch), or 715-373-6120 (night, Bayfield County Sheriff), or 911 and specify your location (Bayfield County), or marine channel 16.

Climate & Weather

Typical summer conditions feature winds of 5 to 20 knots and waves of 1 to 4 feet. Winds of 30 to 40 knots with 6 to 12 foot seas are possible. Severe weather (high winds, rough seas, fog) can set in with little or no warning. Pay close attention to the weather and monitor weather forecasts. In fall, warm lake waters intensify storms and strengthen winds, making small craft advisories (22-33 knots) and gale warnings (34-47 knots) more frequent. Many of the islands are more than five miles from shore, so boaters should check both the nearshore (within five miles of shore) marine forecast and the open waters forecast. Marine weather forecasts are broadcast on marine band radio on the following channels:

- Ashland, WI - marine channel 8 - 162.525 MHz
- Park Falls, WI - marine channel 7 - 162.500 MHz
- Duluth, MN - marine channel 9 - 162.550 MHz

Weather information is available at ranger stations and visitor centers. NOAA's National Weather Service forecast office in Duluth (<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/dlh/marine.php>) has both nearshore and open waters forecasts for Lake Superior as well as weather readings from the lighthouse at Devils Island.



What's the Weather?

	Avg. High/Low	Avg. Precip. "
January	24/8	1.5
February	27/8	0.9
March	36/16	1.3
April	48/30	2.6
May	58/37	3.8
June	69/47	4.1
July	76/54	4.2
August	76/56	4.0
September	67/48	2.9
October	57/40	1.7
November	40/27	2.2
December	29/16	1.2
Yearly Avg.	51/32	30.2

Average temperature (degrees F) and precipitation measured on Madeline Island

Park News



New finger piers are planned for the dock at Little Sand Bay.



A solid pier will replace this floating finger pier at Little Sand Bay.

Dock Projects for 2013

Dredging is scheduled to take place in the boat harbors at Little Sand Bay and at Presque Isle on Stockton Island early this summer.

A project is also planned to construct five finger piers along the National Park Service dock at Little Sand Bay. The piers will be 28-foot long solid docks on steel pilings driven into the lake bed. The southern-most pier will be ADA accessible for visitors. We anticipate that two of the finger piers will be completed this summer, with the remaining piers being finished either late this year or early in 2014. The deck of the existing dock is scheduled to be lowered by one foot in 2014 to adapt existing infrastructure to lower lake levels.



“Like” us on Facebook

Do you want to know what is happening in the park right now? Do you have a question you would like to ask about the Apostle Islands? Do you want to comment about something happening in the park? This can all be done online by visiting the park’s facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/apostleislandsnationallakeshore>. You can help us spread the word about current conditions in the park and issues that are important to you. You can also share your photos and experiences in the Apostle Islands. Join the growing group of virtual park visitors on our facebook page.



A mink frog in the Michigan Island lagoon.

Monitoring Apostle Islands’ Vital Signs

The National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) program works with park staff to do long-term monitoring of critical natural resources known as “vital signs” to help understand the health of park ecosystems. I&M staff from the Great Lakes Network office can often be found in the Apostle Islands collecting data on contaminants in bald eagles, water quality, plant communities, and landscape disturbance. The contaminants program is taking a year off to analyze data that have been collected since 2006, but Network staff will be in the park for water quality monitoring in the lagoons at Little Sand Bay and on Outer Island and to begin identifying sites for frog and toad monitoring that will begin in 2014. Once sites are identified, automatic recording devices will be put in place that are set to record the sounds of calling frogs and toads at set times. These recordings will then be analyzed to determine what species are in the islands and their relative abundance.

To learn more, visit the Great Lakes Network website at <http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/glkn/>.



Piping Plovers on Long Island

Long Island provides the most important nesting habitat in Wisconsin for the endangered piping plover. The birds build nests with small stones on the beach. Last year four pairs of plovers were seen starting nests on Long Island. Three of these nests with their eggs were washed out by storms. The adults learned from this and started new nests much farther away from the lake’s wrath. One pair nested near the top of a dune while another pair selected a site in beach grass near a pile of driftwood that protected against the wind. The nests were monitored by two employees who made scientific observations of the birds and helped protect them by educating the public about their presence. Four known nests successfully produced eight chicks. Late in the season three more chicks from an unknown nest were also found. This season two plover monitors will again be working to protect these rare birds. One of the greatest threats plovers face is from uncontrolled dogs. Monitors will work closely with NPS rangers and Bad River tribal wardens to make sure visitors are aware that dogs must be on a leash while in the park. Visitors can help by staying out of closed areas, keeping dogs on a leash, and reporting sightings of these rare birds. A video of plovers in the Apostles can be viewed at <http://www.nps.gov/apis/photosmultimedia/multimedia.htm>



An algae bloom in a lake on Isle Royale.

Watch for Algae Blooms in Lake Superior

In mid-July last summer visitors to Meyers Beach and Little Sand Bay were greeted with a floating yellowish-green mat on Lake Superior. This algal bloom that contained cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) was likely caused by a combination of factors including torrential rains around the west end of the lake and unusually warm lake temperatures. Algal blooms like this can cause health problems for people, pets, and wildlife; reduce water quality; and interfere with swimming, diving, boating, and fishing activities. Algal blooms may occur again this summer. If water is cloudy, looks like green paint or pea soup, or has a floating scum layer or floating clumps, please do NOT:

- swim in or swallow water,
- allow pets to swim in or drink water,
- allow children to play in any scum layer at the shoreline, or
- filter water for human consumption unless it is completely clear.

If you encounter an algal bloom while swimming, be sure to rinse off after leaving the lake. Please report any algal blooms to park personnel, and share any photos of the event.



Park partners from UW-Madison and UW Sea Grant plan to install a digital display of real-time wave and water temperature data at the Meyers Beach shelter this summer.

Real-Time Wave Observation System

The Real-time Wave Observation System (RTWOS) at the mainland sea caves will continue to provide wave heights and wave pictures this season via the internet at: <http://wavesatseacaves.cee.wisc.edu/index.htm>. Please check this site for the latest conditions at the mainland sea caves. Rangers stationed at Meyers Beach this summer will have access to weather and wave condition information. Installation of a digital display at Meyers Beach to allow visitors to check conditions before they paddle to the sea caves is planned for this summer.



Become a Junior Ranger

The Apostle Islands have stories to tell. Young visitors can begin to read these stories and write their own tales of Apostle Islands adventure by using the park’s new Junior Ranger Activity Guide. The booklet is full of fun activities designed to help kids of all ages connect with what makes the Apostle Islands special. Ask for the free booklet at any park visitor center or ranger station. The National Park Service also has an online Junior Ranger program at www.nps.gov/webrangers.



Wilderness Privies

This year we’ll be adding some privies at isolated campsites. These are basic accessible stump privies with no outhouse surrounding them. They will be screened by vegetation to provide some privacy. The design is familiar to anyone who has been to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. We hope to add these to all single campsites that currently don’t have access to a privy or outhouse. We plan to install them at campsites on Rocky, Manitou, and Michigan islands and at the mainland campsite this summer.



Park fees are funding repairs at the Little Sand Bay visitor center in 2013.

Your Fee Dollars at Work

You might be wondering what the park is doing with the money it has collected from camping, docking, guided tours, and parking. In 2013 more than \$45,000 will be used to mitigate substantial moisture, mold, and rodent issues at the Little Sand Bay visitor center. This includes replacing damaged floors and ceilings; installing new insulation; improving ventilation; replacing rotted siding; structural repairs; replacing unsafe wiring; improving drainage; and sealing openings in the walls, roof and foundation. The repairs are scheduled for completion in time to open the visitor center in mid-June. Fee money also helps pay for park staff providing guided tours of the Raspberry Island Lighthouse and working at the information desk at park headquarters in Bayfield.

Let the Sunshine In: Keeping Up Cultural Landscapes



Crews began clearing brush from the grounds at Devils Island light from August to October 2012. The brush piles are scheduled to be burned in 2013.

If you're a home owner, you know the joys and sorrows of keeping up a yard: mowing, pruning, weeding flower beds, removing dead trees before they fall on something expensive, thinning out crowded trees, and cutting brush. Now imagine that your yard is on a far off Lake Superior island. You sure can't get the neighbor kid to mow it for ten bucks.

This is part of the challenge for keeping up historic landscapes at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. The lighthouse stations, just six of the many historic properties maintained by the park, total over 23 acres of grounds. That's grass that needs mowing, and adjoining woodlots and brushy edges that need periodic cutting, thinning and hazard tree control. The historic light station grounds are forest openings that provided lawns, gardens, orchards, livestock grazing, and most importantly, the cleared areas that allowed the light towers to be visible from approaching ships. These clearings are what park managers call "cultural landscapes"... historic grounds created by people for various purposes. Preserving these landscapes helps preserve the historic function, look, and feel of our light stations.

But as anyone who has ever tried keeping up an old property can tell you, it's not an easy job. Even with modern tools

such as chainsaws, mowers, and rotary-head brush cutters, these landscapes demand a lot of time and attention. Park maintenance staff and volunteers handle the routine mowing and trimming, which is part of the weekly duties of the volunteer light station keepers. Over time, however, the edges of the mowed areas have been re-populated by woody vegetation and trees, and the light station grounds have grown smaller and smaller. Today, a visitor might see only half or a quarter of the original historic station grounds.

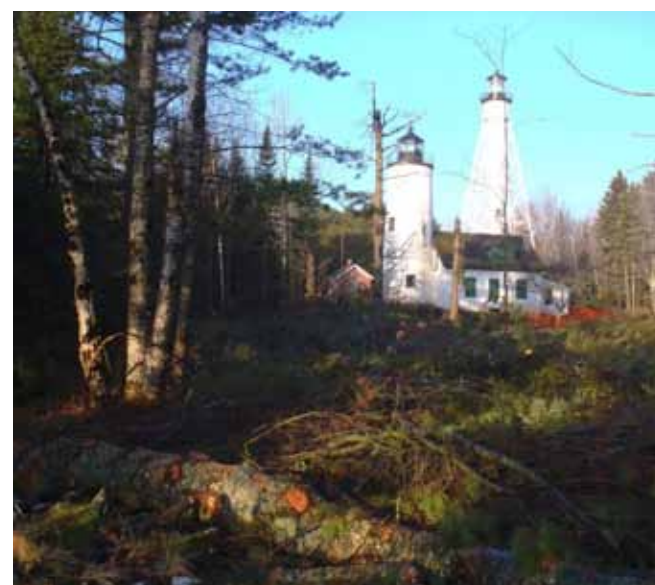
As part of the major light station rehabilitation project (see cover story), the National Park Service conducted a study of each light station, called a "historic structures and cultural landscapes report" (see the full reports at <http://www.nps.gov/apis/parkmgmt/hlrlr.htm>). This provided a detailed history of each structure and landscape feature; down to the level of individual walkways, flower beds, and fruit trees; with recommendations on management for each feature.

The reports provide a vision and a plan for each historic light station, as well as a pretty big "to-do" list. In 2012, local contractors began removing selected large trees covering the light station grounds at Michigan Island, helping to restore that landscape. Meanwhile, park staff is

removing smaller quantities of trees and brush at Devils and La Pointe light stations. The work at Devils will also involve the use of the park firefighting team to burn off piles of brush.

Other than the contract work at Michigan Island, the rest of this work is unfunded. Managers are scrambling to find staff, youth crews, volunteers, and equipment to get the job done. We're applying for NPS project funds whenever we can. Meanwhile, a "pick up" team of park staff, with personnel from every division, have managed to do thinning and brush clearing work on over 6 acres of grounds at Devils and La Pointe stations, as well as at the historic Hansen Farm on Sand Island. Future landscape work at Raspberry, La Pointe, Sand, and Outer lights is also anticipated. The Friends of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore have generously pitched in, contributing a new heavy-duty brush saw for the effort. Thank you Friends!

The results should be dramatic. Visitors will be able to see the light station grounds



In fall, 2012, contractors began removing trees on the grounds at Michigan Island light to restore the historic landscape.

much more as they appeared fifty to one hundred years ago. Special touches will be provided at Michigan Island light where historic flower beds and an apple orchard will be partially restored. The restored landscapes (especially at La Pointe and Michigan lights, and Hansen Farm) will also improve sunlight and airflow around the historic buildings, reducing moisture in the structures. Boaters will also be better able to appreciate the light stations too. The lights will be more visible from the lake, as they were historically designed to be.

New Campsites Available on Four Islands

Overnight camping is a popular activity among visitors to Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. There are 64 campsites located on 15 islands and the mainland unit of the park. In 2012, camping permits were issued to more than 14,000 campers. Monitoring, maintaining and improving facilities associated with camping are ongoing efforts. In the past year, campsites on Ironwood Island and Outer Island have been relocated, a new campsite has been established on Long Island, and a new group campsite has been created on Rocky Island.

On Ironwood Island, the campsite was moved from the west to the east side of the sandspit to a more stable and much nicer location for campers. Moving the campsite was part of a bigger project to protect the sandspit. Over the years, historic and current use of the sandspit trampled and killed many plants, creating large areas of bare sand. Without dune plants to hold sandy soils together, the sand erodes away. Bare areas were stabilized with over 15,000 native plants, thanks to funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Tent pads, a floating boardwalk, and a stump privy were installed to improve the relocated campsite for visitors and to protect fragile plants, erodible soil and cultural resources.

Several years ago, winter storms broke through the dune of sand separating the campsite on the south end of Outer Island from the beach. Not only did the sand bury several amenities at the campsite, but the site was exposed to any wind and waves from the east. Park staff identified a flat area in the



The relocated campsite on Ironwood Island (left above) features three new tent pads. A new group campsite has been established on Rocky Island (right above).

trees behind the beach on the east side of the sandspit, a few hundred yards north of the original campsite. The new campsite has an eating area near the shore to take advantage of lake breezes and provide an incredible view and a tent area tucked back from the shore where it is more protected from strong winds. In late summer of 2012, the bear proof locker and fire ring were relocated to this new site and a stump privy was installed nearby.

A new campsite has been established on Long Island about one-half mile southeast of the La Pointe light station on the north side of the island. Similar to Outer Island, the Long Island campsite has separate eating and tent areas. On Long, the areas are connected by a short trail and marked with a post. In addition

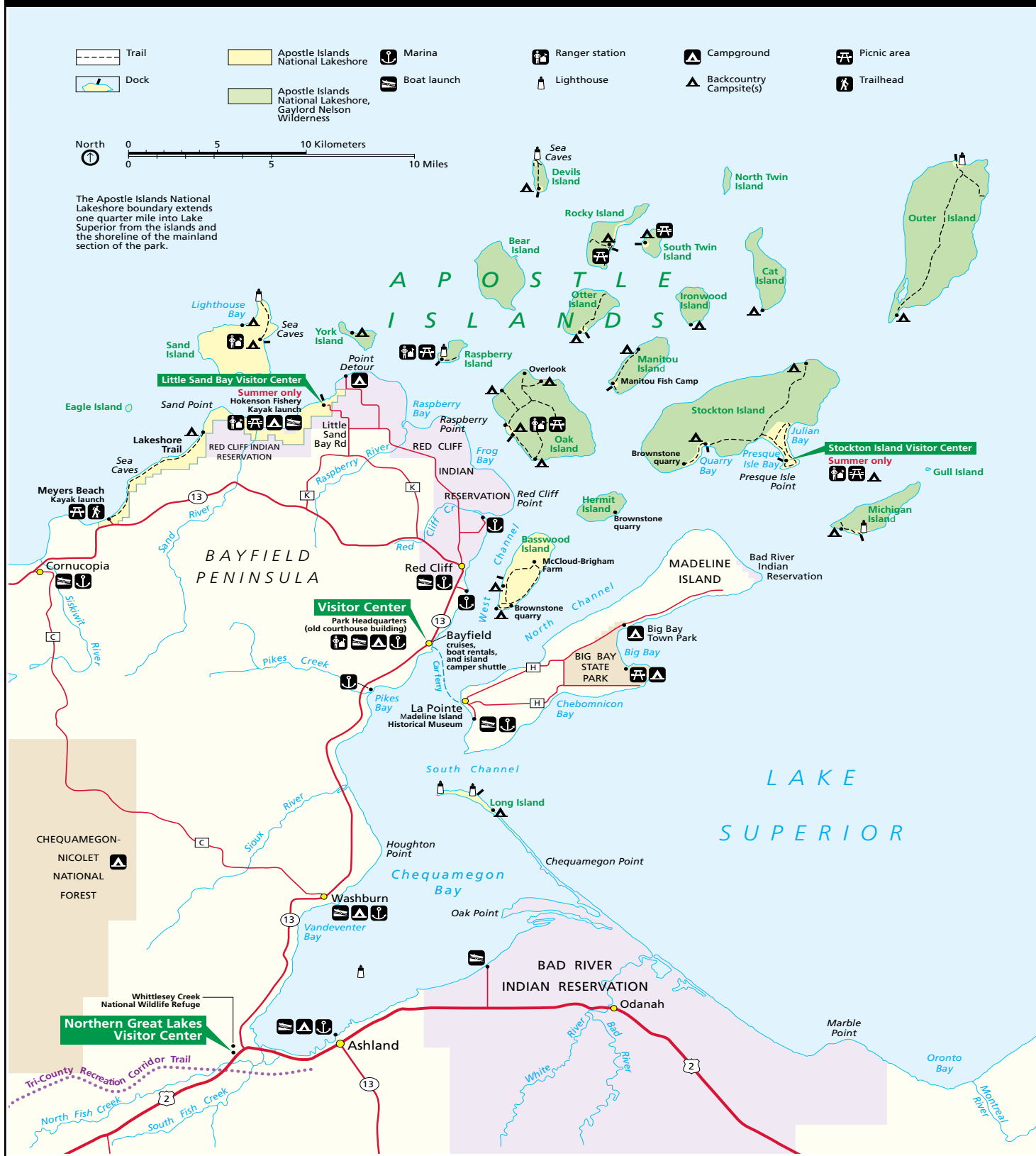
to protecting the tent area from strong winds and creating an eating area with an amazing view and nice breeze, this also keeps any food smells a good distance from the sleeping area, minimizing problems with bears. The campsite has a bear proof locker, picnic table, and fire ring. A stump privy has been installed in a secluded spot just to the north of the trail that connects the eating and tent areas.

A new group campsite for parties of eight to twenty-one campers has been established on Rocky Island. This provides a group site at a strategic location in the center of the islands. The new "Rocky Site A" was created by merging two very low use individual campsites (formerly Rocky Sites 6 and 7) that were adjacent to one another. The site is located

about a quarter mile north of the public dock on the east side of the island. A small beach provides an adequate landing for paddlers. The site includes picnic tables, a bear proof locker, a fire ring, and a vault toilet located nearby.

Efforts will continue in 2013 to finish installing stump privies at campsites that do not have close access to vault toilets. Planning efforts are also progressing to identify potential new campsites on Sand Island and the mainland. Much work remains to improve the standards of all the park's camping facilities, but progress is being made. Ask park staff or check the campsite directory on the park's website <http://www.nps.gov/apis/planyourvisit/campsite-directory.htm> if you have any questions about the location of campsites or facilities in the park.

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore



A Walk on the Beach...



Meyers Beach.



Julian Bay on Stockton Island.



Michigan Island.



Cat Island.

Raspberry Island Boathouse Gets Support From "Friends"



The historic fabric of Apostle Islands light stations remains remarkably intact. Numerous lighthouses have been preserved nationally, but in too many cases the only structure remaining on site is a lighthouse in isolation. The ancillary buildings have been lost before their contributions to the cultural landscape and historic context of the Lighthouse Service could be recognized. In contrast, the Apostle Islands light stations, with their outbuildings generally intact, provide a rich portrait of the work done by men and women of the Lighthouse Service to facilitate navigation on the Great Lakes.

When visitors arrive at the Raspberry Island dock, the first building that greets them is the boathouse. This was not always the case. When the original lighthouse went in service in 1863, it had no boathouse. In August 1878, Raspberry Island lighthouse keeper Lewis Larson noted in his logbook that "U.S. Lighthouse Service engineers came here to build a boathouse...". The first boathouse was located three-quarters of a mile from the lighthouse in a protected



The boathouse at Raspberry Island light will get a much needed face-lift with help from the Friends of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

area on the sandspit. A new boathouse was constructed in 1893 at the base of the bluff in front of the lighthouse. This saved the inconvenient three-quarter mile hike between the lighthouse and the original boathouse. Though elements of the boathouse have changed over time, the building has been at its present location for 120 years.

The ravages of time and weather have taken a toll on the foundation and structure of the boathouse. While many of the other buildings at Raspberry Island Light Station have recently been restored, the boathouse still has visible and immediate needs.

For the past three years, the Friends

of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore have worked to raise about \$50,000 to help the National Park Service restore the boathouse. They are pleased to announce that restoration of the boathouse foundation is scheduled to begin in late summer or early fall of 2013. Work on the walls, windows and roof will follow in 2014. It is important to note that once work on the foundation begins, the dock south of the boathouse (the short dock) will be closed. The north dock will also be closed during weekdays when construction is in progress, with the exception of scheduled cruise boat arrivals. The lighthouse will remain open and tours of the lighthouse will be available as advertised from mid-June to mid-September. Check the park website or call 715-779-3397 for details about dock availability at Raspberry Island.

The "Friends" are excited to be playing an important role in preserving this significant piece of island history. To learn more about the Friends of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore or to help support their efforts visit their webpage at www.friendsoftheapostleislands.org/.

National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation

The National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation (NPLSF) is a 501 (c) 3 organization with a mission to support the five U. S. national parks on Lake Superior through fund raising and advocacy. NPLSF supports projects that are not federally funded. This year, NPLSF will once again help fund improvements to the park's busiest trail.

The Lakeshore Trail begins at Meyers Beach parking lot and leads to overlooks of the mainland sea caves. Due to muddy conditions in recent years, sections of the trail have widened significantly causing resource damage and impacting visitor experience. NPLSF is providing funds for the National Park Service to purchase materials to construct about 450 feet of plank boardwalk along the trail this year, to add to the 450 feet of boardwalk they funded in 2012. This will enable the park to target the highest priority areas, helping to improve trail conditions and mitigate resource damage.

We're grateful for the growing collaboration between the NPLSF and Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. NPLSF is seeking board members with particular interest in the Apostle Islands. See <http://www.nplsf.org> or the park superintendent for more information.